(b) The details of Ganja plants destroyed by Narcotics Intelligence Bureau in January, 1993 are as under :—

Places	Area	Potential Yield in Kg.
Poolamalai Vaigai river Palkeni, Aranamnaipudur Korattutheri, Kannimar Odai at Western Ghats	9·5	9,770

(c) Whenever illegal cultivation of Ganja or wild growth of Ganja come to notice, plants are destroyed. In addition to the places mentioned in part (b) above, some places in Tamil Nadu where Ganja plants came to notice in 1993 are :—

(i) Vellimalai reserve forest of Andipatti Taluk, Madurai district.

(ii) Varayattypottal & Poolamalai near Arasaradi hill areas of Andipatti Taluk, Madurai district.

(iii) Santhankadu & Saralaikadu Edamalaipottu forest area of Andipatti Taluk, Madurai district.

(iv) Valliparai hill area reserve forest near varghese estate, Andipatti Taluk, Madurai district.

(v) Vattakaniparai near Gandhi Gramam of Andipatti Taluk, Madurai district.

These have also been destroyed by officials of the Central Excise Department.

(d) Cultivation of cannabis plant for production of Ganja for any purpose other than medical and scientific purpose has been banned by the Central Government by issue of a notification under Section 8 of the NDPS Act, 1985.

Regular compaigns to locate and destroy Ganja plants are launched and offenders dealt with according to law.

Production of Smack and Heroin

3472. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that smack and heroin are being produced in the country at present in a big way;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is violation of rules in prescribing the area for cultivation of opium in the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a wide difference in its sale price to Government and to private parties;

(d) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a nexus between opium producers, police and the concerned officers;

(e) whether any inquiry has been held in this regard, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) what steps are being taken to plug the loopholes in its cultivation and check the loss of Government revenue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) to (f) There have been some stray cases of manufacture of smack and heroin in the country but the quantity of smack and heroin seized in these cases has been very insignificant. There is nothing to indicate the existence of any kind of nexus between opium producers, police and the concerned officers.

Illegal sale of opium to private parties being a clandestine activity, the price at which opium is sold in such cases cannot be known precisely but it is generally higher than the procurement price fixed by the Government.

Production of licit opium in India is regulated under strict licensing control and supervision by the Central Government. Excess or illicit cultivation of opium is a rarity. Different drug law enforcement agencies keep strict vigil over poppy cultivation and stringent penal measures are taken under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotrophic Substances Act for any violation.

Applications about Economic Reforms

3473. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the President of the International Chamber of Commerce called on the Prime Minister in the last month of December, 1992, to express the industry's concern about the impact of Ayodhya incidence and its aftermath on the pace of economic reforms; and